

### FRANGIPANI RUST

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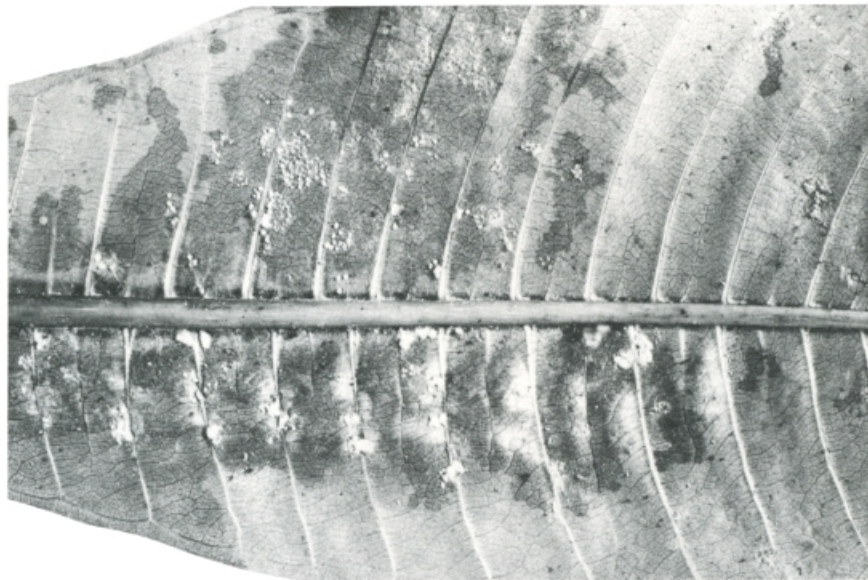
Frangipani (Plumeria rubra L.), easily propagated and grown, has been extensively utilized in landscape plantings in the southern United States. The aesthetic value of frangipani lies in its fragrant waxy blossoms, which are usually pink or red, but occasionally white or yellow (3). The prized flowers, long lasting even after picking, are frequently utilized in making leis, garlands, and bouquets. The trees have been cultivated in Asia for over 200 years, not only for the fragrant flowers, but also for the alleged medicinal properties of their milky sap (3).

**SYMPTOMS:** A foliar disease caused by the rust fungus, Coleosporium plumierae Pat., is a common disease of frangipani in South Florida. It is characterized by small yellow pustules on the underside of the leaf (Fig. 1). These pustules rupture and release spores which initiate infection on other leaves (1). Heavy infections may cause premature leaf drop. Both uredospores and teliospores occur on Plumeria spp. (2). No alternate hosts have been identified.

**CONTROL:** Fungicides are not approved for use on this specific disease. Fallen leaves should be removed and destroyed to reduce inoculum.

**SURVEY AND DETECTION:** Look for yellow pustules on the underside of the leaves.

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**Fig. 1.** Leaf undersurface of Plumeria rubra showing characteristic yellow pustules caused by Coleosporium plumierae.

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# LITERATURE CITED

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